

Van Independent School District

Rexanne Thomas, M.Ed. Special Education Director thomasr@van.sprnet.org

(903) 963-8134 * Fax (903) 963-5781 P.O. Box 697 * 549 E. Texas Street * Van, TX 75790

TESTIMONY ON SB 596 – TRANSITION representing Van ISD and TCASE

Key Issues:

- Changing the age to 14
 - Age-appropriate planning and information.
 - More in depth planning and focused activities beginning at age 16.
 - Current transition activities at Van ISD
- Data collection for PBMAS
 - Rating our district on indicators for the activities of other agencies
 - Past history invitations have been issued, but other agencies often do not respond
 - Use IEP data to rate our district on our continuing efforts to include other agencies in transition planning
 - Evaluate our program based solely upon its performance, not upon factors over which we have no control, such as parental consent to contact agencies, parent/student cooperation with agency representatives, agency representative response
 - Maintaining employment is not always a reflection on the district's program or efforts to adequately prepare the student.

The mission of VAN ISD, in partnership with the community, is to develop well-rounded, productive citizens capable of competing in a global society through a safe and caring environment in which students embrace learning and strive for excellence.